

South Australia Drought Conditions Assessment

18 October 2018

PIRSA's latest 'Crop and Pasture Report' identifies the following drought affected areas within South Australia as:

- eastern and western Eyre Peninsula
- upper North
- northern Yorke Peninsula
- Murray Mallee
- North East Pastoral

Current data identifies more than 4000 farming properties as affected by drought (map below). Note those farming properties differ greatly in terms of type, size, preparedness and needs.

The latest season update showed continuing dry conditions and frost in September and October had impacted pasture growth and crop yield – with a number of producers now opting to cut crops for hay.

Consequently, as at 30 September, the grain crop estimate has been reduced to 4.9 million tonnes (from 5.8 million tonnes).

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, rainfall for parts of the South Australian drought affected regions in September 2018 was lowest since records commenced. Soil moisture levels are also extremely low, which is also contributing to higher frost risks.

PIRSA is monitoring the season closely with industry, Department for Environment and Water, and climate updates from the Bureau of Meteorology and will update the pir.sa.gov.au/drought – Current Outlook page regularly.

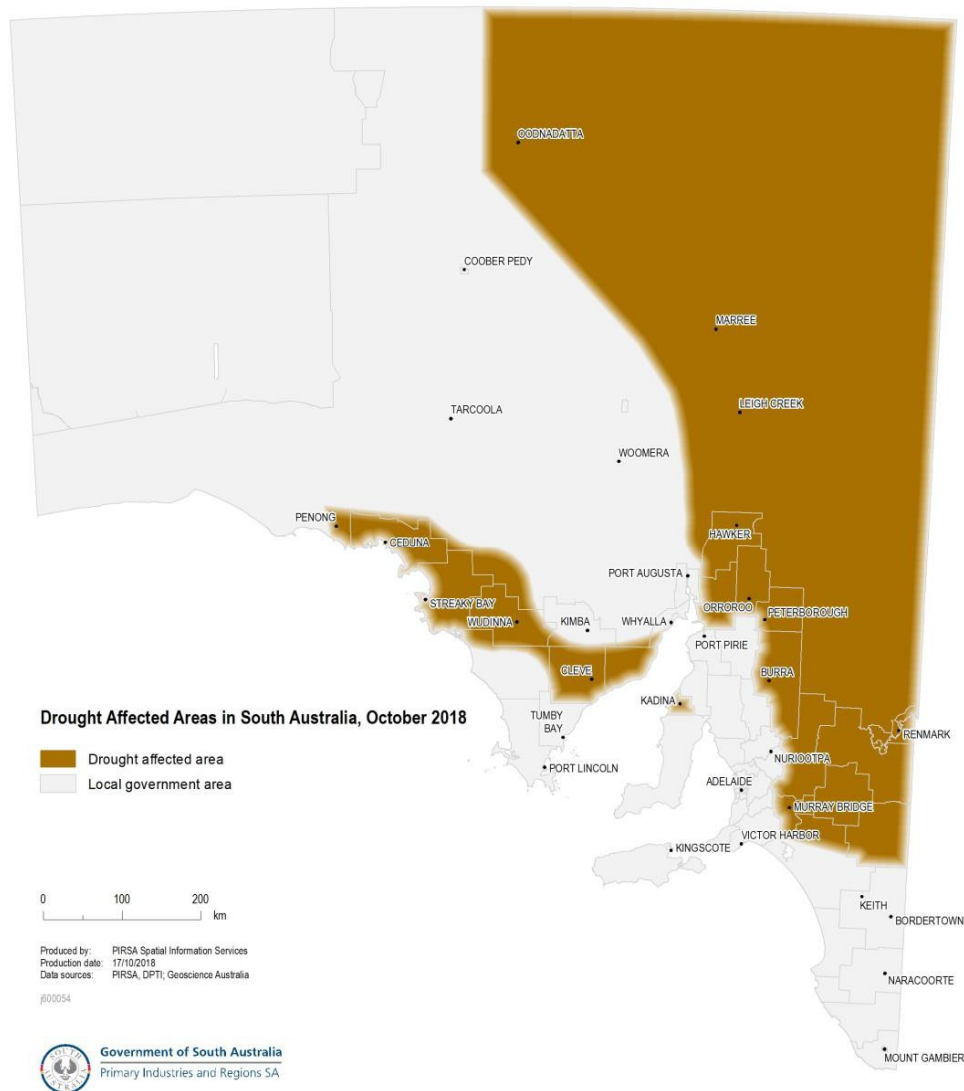


Figure 1: Drought affected areas based on assessment against PIRSA Adverse Events Recovery Framework Indicators.

The Adverse Events Framework

In South Australia, PIRSA's 'Adverse Events Recovery Framework for Primary Production' outlines the government's approach to determining what support may or may not be required in response to adverse events.

The Framework aligns to the principles of the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform (IGA) agreed by the Commonwealth, states and territory governments in 2013.

The framework identifies the indicators that are monitored to determine whether the seasonal and associated impacts trigger drought response phases. More detail about the Framework are available at:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/consultancy/adverse_events_framework

Under the terms of the IGA, state and territory governments no longer issue formal drought declarations. Under the IGA, relevant assistance programs for farmers experiencing drought or hardship are based on individual circumstances.

Table 1: Summary of Drought affected local government areas and postcodes

District	Local Government area	Post codes	Framework phase	No. Farm Businesses (PICs)
Eyre Peninsula	Franklin Harbour Cleve Kimba Streaky Bay Wudinna Ceduna	5602, 5603, 5604, 5633, 5640, 5642, 5650, 5651, 5652, 5653, 5654, 5655, 5660, 5661, 5671, 5680, 5690.	Drought affected	641
Murray Mallee	Mid Murray Loxton/Waikerie Renmark Paringa Karoonda East Murray Coorong	5238, 5260, 5254, 5256, 5301, 5302, 5303, 5304, 5306, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5320, 5321, 5322, 5330, 5331, 5332, 5333, 5340, 5341, 5342, 5343, 5344, 5345, 5346, 5353, 5354, 5356, 5357.	Drought affected	2083
Northern Yorke Peninsula	Copper Coast	5552, 5554, 5556, 5558	Drought affected	181
Upper North	Peterborough Flinders Ranges Orroroo/Carrieton Mt Remarkable Goyder	5374, 5381, 5417, 5418, 5419, 5420, 5421, 5422, 5431, 5432, 5433, 5434, 5480, 5481, 5482, 5485, 5493	Drought affected	1463
North East Pastoral	N/A (pastoral unincorporated area)	5701, 5440, 5730, 5731, 5732, 5733, 5734.	Drought affected	457
Total				4825